

**From:** Thinker  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 2:34am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

You asked for commentary, this is mine..

I feel that the Microsoft settlement should include in it a provision that would prevent them from having Windows automatically associate file types with their own applications upon any number of unrelated events.

Having this be the 'default' behavior gives them an opportunity to have their software essentially (for many users) \*remove\* competing products..making them unusable..

Ideally, Windows should also be sold in a stripped down form with no built-in hooks to web browsers.. They use this to launch IE against people's will, and using Captive-X or other built-in hooks most people don't know about, upload..essentially exchange privacy-compromising information with their own servers.. This is wrong.

Netscape and Internet Exploiter as well as others should be treated equally and mime types/file associations should be controllable by an external application.

Also they should be prevented from installing what is essentially spy-ware in their software as they seem to be doing now. Barely a week goes by without news of another backdoor that they have built into Windows. Of course they claim that these 'Trojan horses' are bugs. But given the fact that the proffered 'fixes' often don't fix the holes they purport to repair, and the number..(there have been so many it cannot be simple incompetence.) I think that it's clear that they have criminal intent. They should be prosecuted under the anti-hacking laws for breaking into people's systems.

Thank you, and \*good luck\*,

Sheldon Pannisi